REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for a complete and thorough review of the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 10, 14, and 23 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 15, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, and 25-26 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 9, 10, 14, and 23 are independent claims. Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3, 9, and 25 contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 7, 10, 13, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tan et al. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenfeld et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 23 have been amended to include the recited limitation of claim 3 which has been indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 10, 14, and 23. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 23, and all the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 4-7, 10, 12-13, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenfeld et al. Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tan et al. Claim 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Rosenfeld et al. Claims 8, 11, and 14-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenfeld et al. in view of Chiu et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 23 have been amended to include the recited limitation of claim 3 which has been indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 10, 14, and 23. Since the none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 10, 14, and 23, and all the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciate the indication that claims 3, 9, and 25 contains allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1, 10, 14 and 23 have been amended to include the limitation recited in claim 3.

Claim 9 is an independent claim that does not depend from another and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response; the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 41,140

Date: January 28, 2004

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